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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

November 8, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Diego is circulating a draft Environmental Impact Report for public review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the following project:

POD10-007, LOG NO. 09-00-003; SCH NO. 2010091030 Wind Energy Zoning Ordinance and General Plan Amendment. The project is an amendment to the County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance and General Plan Amendment to modify text of the Borrego Springs Community Plan and the Boulevard Chapter of the Mountain Empire Subregional Plan. The amendments to the Zoning Ordinance consist of clarifications, deletions, and revisions to provide an updated set of definitions, procedures, and standards for review and permitting of wind turbines and meteorological testing (MET) facilities. These amendments include allowing a temporary MET facility that complies with the height designator of the zone through a ministerial review process. The proposed amendments also include allowing small wind turbines that meet the definition and specifications of the Zoning Ordinance to be installed through a ministerial review process. Large wind turbines, as defined by the Zoning Ordinance, would continue to be subject to the Major Use Permit procedures and requirements, and would require separate project-specific environmental review. Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance related to large wind turbines are intended to bring development regulations up to date with current technologies and industry practices for large wind turbines. The Zoning Ordinance amendments would apply to the unincorporated area of San Diego County.

The project also includes a General Plan Amendment to modify the Boulevard Community Plan to allow more flexibility for large wind turbine projects and an amendment to the Borrego Springs Community Plan to allow more flexibility for small turbine projects.

The draft Environmental Impact Report identified potentially significant environmental impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards, land use, noise, and transportation/traffic.

The draft Environmental Impact Report and General Plan Amendment can be reviewed on line at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/ceqa_public_review.html and at the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU), Project Processing Counter, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, California 92123. Comments on these draft documents must be sent to the DPLU address listed above and should reference the project numbers and name.

Comments on this proposed draft Environmental Impact Report and the General Plan Amendment must be received no later than **Friday, December 23, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.** (a 45 day public review period). For additional information, please contact Matthew Schneider at (858) 694-3714 or by e-mail at matthew.schneider@sdcounty.ca.gov.